

## House Bill 922

By: Representatives Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>, Millar of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Chambers of the 81<sup>st</sup>, Levitas of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Article 4 of Chapter 9 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fraud and related offenses, so as to provide for additional methods of committing the offense of deceptive business practices; to prohibit certain violations of a county's or municipality's competitive bidding procedures; to increase penalties for second and subsequent offenses; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Article 4 of Chapter 9 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to fraud and related offenses, is amended by revising Code Section 16-9-50, relating to deceptive business practices, as follows:

"16-9-50.

(a) A person commits the offense of using a deceptive business practice when in the regular course of business ~~he~~ such person knowingly:

(1) Uses or possesses for use a false weight or measure or any other device for falsely determining or recording any quality or quantity;

(2) Sells, offers, or exposes for sale or delivers less than the represented quality or quantity of any commodity; ~~or~~

(3) Takes or attempts to take more than the represented quantity of any commodity when as buyer he or she furnishes the weight or measure; or

(4) Violates a county's or municipality's competitive bidding or contract approval policy or procedure by:

(A) Soliciting, authorizing, or awarding a contract within one year after the county or municipality authorized or awarded one or more other contracts to the same vendor for the same or similar goods or services, where the value of each contract is less than a monetary threshold which would trigger a requirement for competitive bidding, but

1 which contracts together have a value greater than such competitive bidding threshold;  
2 or  
3 (B) Soliciting, authorizing, or awarding a contract within one year after the county or  
4 municipality authorized or awarded one or more other contracts to the same vendor for  
5 the same or similar goods or services, where the value of each contract is less than a  
6 monetary threshold which would trigger a requirement for approval by vote of the  
7 governing authority of the county or municipality, but which contracts together have  
8 a value greater than such approval threshold.

9 (b) Any person who commits the offense of using a deceptive business practice shall, upon  
10 the first offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon the second and each subsequent  
11 offense, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

## 12 SECTION 2.

13 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.